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Opening with the Doctrine of VULGAR and DECIMAL ARITHMETIC, Extraction of the SQUARE and CUBE ROOT, GEOMETRY, TRIGONOMETRY, MENSURATION of plain and irregular Figures, with the USE of all the INSTRUMENTS for MEASURING, PLANNING, &c. ASTRONOMY, as far as may be necessary in SURVEYING and Correcting SURVEYS, made plain and easy; and the METHOD of finding the LATITUDE of PLACES. SPECIMENS of FIELD BOOKS from actual SURVEYS of DEMESNE LANDS, FARMS, FORESTS, &c. &c. The Whole comprehending every Thing necessary, ornamental, and useful to the PRACTICAL SURVEYOR. Illustrated with Copper-plate Figures, and several large Maps, drawn from the Surveys, and beautifully embellished and coloured.

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THE

GENTLEMAN FARMER's POCKET COMPANION;

OR,

GENERAL REMEMBRANCER:

Describing the best and most practicable

METHODS OF IMPROVING

BARREN OR WASTE AND WORN-OUT LANDS.

WITH THE

Nature and Application of the most proper

GRASS SEEDS.

Shewing the great Advantage to be derived from cultivating them.

Also a full Description of the several SOILS most advantageous for the Propagation of ARTIFICIAL GRASSES.

To which is added a copious Account of MANURES, and their Application to different Soils.

By a GENTLEMAN,

Well versed in MODERN AGRICULTURE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY C. FORSTER, NO. 41, POULTRY.

1788.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

PREFACE.

FROM the number of Books on Agriculture already publiſhed and publiſhing by men of profeſſed abilities, ſome apology may be thought neceſſary for introducing the following ſheets to the world. And indeed, from the conciſe manner in which the ſubject is treated, it may be aſked, "Why the author has not made a voluminous "production, from the combination of ſo many "eſſential articles in huſbandry?" Had he conſidered his own emolument rather than the public advantage, he might without much difficulty have complied with ſuch queſtion; but influenced by a deſire to communicate the moſt uſeful obſervations, as they occurred to him from experience, in a way as comprehenſive as poſſible, and not to burthen the mind, or memory, with uſeleſs experiments only, or ſuch as in themſelves are merely theoretical, the reader will excuſe, on good grounds, any want of enlargement; as little could be added previous to the practical part.

part. For it is the real, practical part only, that is eſſentially neceſſary to nine-tenths of the Engliſh Farmers, for whoſe uſe and advantage this ſmall Tract is introduced to public light.

The valuable productions in nature, when properly combined with thoſe of art, are delightfully intereſting to ſociety in general. And nothing tends to enliven the mind and invigorate the conſtitution more than rural improvements. How delightful the beauty of ſpring, when the melody of the groves invites to breathe the vernal air, and taſte the ſweets of health renewing morn! Riſe, then, ye ſons of ſloth, and enjoy the genial invigorating ſcene, view and exult in the goodneſs of the all-wiſe Diſpoſer; admire, while with becoming ſpirit you purſue, the bleſſings opening for your poſſeſſion. You may improve your barren ſoils, while creation calls aloud and extends to all her ſecondary bounty in ſtores of plenty. And may every hand lend its proper aid, while Nature is furniſhed with unborn riches, and diſpoſed to pour grateful profuſions, in obedience to her Author, on all around her.

THE

CONTENTS.

		Page
1	METHOD of improving worn-out land	1
2	On deſtroying wild oats, &c.	2
3	On tillage and ſowing — —	4
4	On improving poor land without dung	7
5	Advantage ariſing from propagating clover and other ſeeds on poor land —	8
6	On coal aſhes and other good manures	9
7	On improvements ariſing from propagating rye-graſs, ſaintfoin, &c. —	10
8	Proper time for ſeed-corn, with a hint on managing fallows — —	11
9	On ſeed barley — — —	12
10	Lime conſidered as an excellent manure	13
11	The beſt method for laying down land after tillage — — —	15
12	Ditch earth, &c. a rich manure	16
13	On the management of furrows and fallows — — —	17
14	Advantage of fatting cattle with rye	18
15	A uſeful hint to thoſe who occupy ſmall farms — — —	19
16	Method of preparing ſeed corn —	22
17	Shewing how to improve poor land, from its produce — — —	24
	Objection removed — —	25
18	On the nature, ſoil, and produce of clover	26
	Of rye-graſs — — —	27
	Saintfoin — — —	28

Of

Of Lucerne — — — Page 29
Vetches — — — 30
Buck Wheat — — ibid.
Turnips — — — 31
19 Obſervations on preparing for turnips and graſs ſeeds — — — 33
20 Of horſe and cow dung as manure 36
21 Sheep ditto — — — 37
22 Hog ditto — — — ibid.
23 Pigeon's ditto — — — 38
24 Hen's ditto — — — ibid.
25 Sea coal aſhes for meadow — ibid.
26 Soap aſhes — — — 39
27 Pot aſhes — — — ibid.
28 Of ſoot as a manure — — 40
29 Malt duſt ditto — — — ibid.
A manure deſcribed by the Bath ſociety 41
30 Rags conſidered as manure — ibid.
31 Lime —— —— ibid.
32 Of chalk —— —— 42
33 Marl of ſeveral ſorts —— ibid.
34 Of ſea-weed —— — 44
35 Of ſea ſand, &c. —— 45
36 Of the nature and quality of ſeveral ſorts of earth — — — 45
37 Clay conſidered — — 47
38 Chalk ſoil — — 48
39 Loam ditto — — ibid.
40 Method of deſtroying fern — 50
41 Ditto ruſhes — — ibid.
42 Ditto broom — — ibid.
43 Ditto whins — — — 51

THE

GENTLEMAN FARMER's

POCKET COMPANION, &c.

EVERY judicious builder will admit the neceſſary precaution to lay a good foundation, as the ſuperſtructure will be ever imperfect without proper attention to the baſis of the fabric to be raiſed. So every ſenſible practitioner in modern agriculture will admit the propriety of the ſubſequent hint, which ought to be the baſis of improvement in barren or long uncultivated lands.

When land is become invaluable, through the ſpontaneous growth of ſhrubs, underwood, furze, breaks, or other detrimental productions, over-run with moſs, or for want

of draining is replete with ſtagnate water, bogs, &c. the firſt, and indeed only remedy, is to clear the ſoil of all thoſe impediments, and plough the land for three years, ſowing it with oats, or in the third year barley, if the nature of the ground is good; remembring to open ſufficient drains, or trenches, to carry off all ſtagnated water, and with the third crop to ſow ſuch graſs ſeeds as the nature of the land requires, as clover, trefoil, rye graſs, &c. to continue in paſture for three or four years, and at the expiration to put in the plough again; and if the ſoil is of a barren nature, to continue the ſame proceſs ſucceſſively: admitting ſuch variations only as are conſiſtent with the nature of the land; obſerving that prior to every third crop being ſown, a proper quantity of coal aſhes, or ſome other ſuitable manure, ſhould be laid on, to make the ſward the more compact.

II. Wild oats are juſtly deemed one of the moſt pernicious annoyances to the farmer; and as ſuch, no care or pains ſhould be

be omitted to eradicate and deſtroy their growth. And though their increaſe is allowed to be chiefly owing to a long continued ploughing and tillage, obſervation has convinced many of the utility of the following method; which if purſued in a regular courſe of huſbandry, will be invariably found to deſtroy them.

About a month after the firſt time of ſummer fallow, (in March or April) and after a ſhower, let the harrow be drawn over the fallow, and the wild oats will ſoon appear above the ſurface of the land. Permit them to grow till they are full in ear, then with a ſcythe mow them down; and in dry weather, as ſoon as poſſible, plough in the crop, which will not only kill them, but will meliorate and greatly enrich the ſoil, with the aſſiſtance of thoſe after turnings which the land requires. It is poſſible this firſt experiment may not effectually eradicate this pernicious weed, particularly in wet ſeaſons, or from ſome other accidental cauſe; but from repeated obſervation, and the experience of

ſeveral good practical farmers, it is ſtrongly recommended as a known and excellent remedy. And upon this conſideration a reſolute repetition has been uſed, and has invariably anſwered the moſt ſanguine expectations of thoſe who have followed the experiment.

One objection generally made to this method is, "the Midſummer fallow is "loſt; conſequently the land will not "have ſufficient tillage to receive wheat "at Michaelmas." To this may be anſwered; it will be attended with no inconvenience to lands intended for barley, which is ſown in ſpring, by the relief of an autumn or winter fallow; and indeed on land intended for barley the trial may be more ſucceſſively made.

III. It is a maxim now received, and confirmed by the experience of the beſt farmers in this kingdom, that four fields in tillage are much better for the farm and farmer than three. And as ſummer fallows are generally excluded as much as poſſible in the Norfolk

Norfolk ſyſtem of agriculture, I ſhall leave the judicious farmer to adopt ſuch ſyſtems as the country and ſoil in which he is ſituated are beſt calculated to receive, and only point out what may be general in ſome parts;* viz. wheat, or barley after turnips or fallow; then peaſe, beans, or rather both; next oats, then turnips, &c. or fallow.

The reaſon for this regular proceſs will be ſufficiently obvious, if it is conſidered that a crop of beans and peaſe, or either of them, do not, like moſt other grain, diminiſh, but rather add riches and vegetative nouriſhment to the land, by mellowing and diſpoſing it for the next ſucceſſive or after crop.

* In countries abounding with rich loam, this courſe of huſbandry is much encouraged, from the great advantages derived from it; but in others, where the ſoil is light, ſandy, &c. and not ſufficiently ſtrong for wheat and beans, the old method of three fields, or one crop and fallow, or turnips, is practiſed on thoſe light lands, and is generally found to anſwer.

The

The ſtraw of peaſe, beans, or mixt crop, will be a valuable relief to cattle in winter, and a great preſervative of hay. And it may be conſidered, that a crop of beans will in general pay as well, and in ſome inſtances better than a crop of wheat. However, as it is neceſſary to improve poor land as much as poſſible, and in order to ſecure a good crop, a proper quantity of dung, or ſome good manure, ſhould be laid on the bean ſtubble, as well as the uſual quantity required for turnips, or upon the ſummer fallows.

Without regard to the natural ſtrength of the ſoil, beans and peaſe ſhould be ſown under furrow, viz. upon the ſtubbles, and ploughed in, the furrow ſhould be thin, and laid flat upon the beans. The moſt proper time is the latter end of January, or in the month of February, as the ſucceeding froſts will have no advantage over the riſing crop: as ſoon as they appear above the ſurface of the earth, which will be ſome time in March, after a refreſh-

ing

ing ſhower, a harrow * ſhould be drawn over them, to looſen the earth, by which means the meliorating dews will penetrate and greatly nouriſh them.

This method is of great advantage, as it preſerves the ſeed from crows, pigeons, and other voracious birds, or reptiles, and at the ſame time ſecures a proper depth of earth, as a reſervoir, againſt the parching drought of dry ſummers, when the crop is in bloſſom, and when, for want of ſuch ſupply, they frequently ſhrink, and wither into the moſt diminutive ſize.

IV. Experience within the laſt fifty years has unfolded many valuable ſecrets in agriculture, and convinced the world, that the worſt of land may be ſo ordered, as in ſome meaſure to improve itſelf without any ſuper-inductions of dung. Turnips ſown at Midſummer, and kept regularly houghed, will not only ſupport, but fatten ſheep in win-

* The tread of the horſe or motion of the harrow will be no prejudice to the riſing crop.

ter,

ter, in large numbers, and conſequently greatly enrich the ſoil, in being fed and kept upon it; and the refuſe of the turnips, after the ſheep have left them, and they are become rotten, excellently meliorate and enrich the ſoil, and properly diſpoſe it for a crop of ſpring wheat, barley or oats, without any addition of manure. In this proceſs it is much better to confine the ſheep, or other cattle, within the limits of an acre, by hurdles, not permitting them to range the whole field at once.

V. Clover, ſown on indifferent land, or land worn out with ploughing, at Midſummer when in full bloom if ploughed in, will ſink and die away, and by its ſalts give an uncommon fertility to the ſoil, mellowing and enriching it for two, or three crops ſucceſſively, beginning with a crop of wheat in autumn. The ſame may be ſaid of peaſe, vetches, lentils, and buck-wheat; though the advantages ariſing from theſe latter, are ſeldom ſuppoſed to be equal to the former.

However,

However, that proper information may not be wanting, let it be obſerved, that the hazard of ſowing turnips on very poor land is conſiderable, without ſome additional ſupply. I think it much to the farmer's intereſt to ſprinkle ſome rotten dung, malt-duſt, coal, kilp, or turf-aſhes, according to the ſoil, before the ſowing at Midſummer or Lammas, after the ground is properly prepared for reception of the ſeed.

VI. All dungs are eſteemed great improvers of land, both of paſture and tillage; ſuch as of horſes, cows, ſheep, hogs, &c. all kinds of fiſh, ſea-ſhells, ſea-ſand, rags, feathers, leather, bark from tan-pits, kilp, coal, turf and peat aſhes, &c. have in them excellent qualities for promoting vegetation; which I have frequently obſerved laid on the land too indiſcriminately, by which means ſucceſs has not always anſwered the labour of the induſtrious farmer; it ſeems neceſſary therefore, to lay a ſtreſs upon the goodneſs of aſhes in general, and particularly, thoſe of ſea-coal, which are an excellent manure for paſture and meadow-

meadow-land, if well ſeparated from the cinders, which ought by no means to be laid on land. The nature and virtue of aſhes is ſuch, that they produce wild trefoil, and all the beſt and ſweeteſt graſſes; and ſuch will be the improvement from a judicious manuring, that the ſame land will ſupport a double ſtock, and the produce of hay will be equally increaſed. Ten loads on an acre may be ſufficient in general, but if two or three loads are added, it will be an equal advantage.

Sea ſand, on ſtiff clay arable, is a very great improver.

VII. Rye-graſs, ſaintfoin, trefoil, clover, and other graſſes, of which I ſhall give ſome farther account in the following pages, are great improvers of lands, and that of the worſt ſoil, when deſigned to be laid down for paſture, and after proper time to be ploughed again; theſe graſs-ſeeds ſoon produce a fine turf, and by the rich feed, will enable the farmer to ſupport near three times

the

the ſtock of cattle, which he could not maintain without this improvement.

A neceſſary caution to be obſerved, particularly with large cattle, is, for the firſt week not to permit them to continue more than one hour each day, as they will be induced to over-feed, and ſurfeit, or they may ſwell, and die.

But this neceſſary caution does by no means claſh againſt the improvement; which if conducted with propriety by judicious hands, the increaſe is very great, and is one of the beſt improvements now practiſed, as it evidently appears to produce at leaſt a double increaſe, conſequently ſupports a double ſtock, which makes to the farmer a valuable return of profit, at the ſame time, yields a valuable ſupply for the improvement of the land in the ſucceeding year.

VIII. The nature of ſeed-corn, and time of ſowing, is in general thought to be well underſtood, yet great are the miſtakes often committed by farmers, who have made cuſtom their general ſtandard. All winter

corn

corn ſhould be ſown before rather than after Michaelmas, eſpecially rye, on light land. September being a proper month, the land ſhould be prepared accordingly. If the ſeaſon ſhould be unfavourable in September, or indeed October, the farmer may with reaſon expect ſucceſs in the following month; but I muſt repeat, that the month before Michaelmas is by far preferable to the ſucceeding.

In the management of fallows, the farmer ſhould on no account permit his team to go on the land in wet days, which occaſions the weeds to ſet, and makes the land lie foul at ſeed time.

IX. Barley is much hardier grain than commonly imagined, and therefore ſhould if poſſible be ſown in February, as the ſucceeding froſts never injure it.

The common and uſual way is to harrow it in after ploughing, which is a very proper method with early ſowing, or in a wet ſpring. Late experience ſhews, that except the land be very ſtrong indeed, ſowing it under

under furrow is the moſt certain to procure a large crop.

Some take the medium, ſowing one half under, and the other half above furrow, and have ſucceeded very well.

A very light ſoil, that produces weeds, is an exception to an early ſowing, but not to a late one under furrow. Care muſt be taken to hough, or weed both wheat and barley in May and June; for experience is a convincing proof, that the higheſt expence is always repaid. Carlock is thought an harmleſs weed, but wheat in general ſuffers more from it than any other grain. Barley ſuffers much from thiſtles, docks, &c.

If after weeding, the crop appears thin, it is a very good maxim to ſtrew pigeon's dung, hen's dung, kilp aſhes, or malt-duſt over it; by which application it will greatly increaſe, particularly if done in rainy, or moiſt weather.

X. Lime is acknowledged by all experimental farmers, to be a moſt excellent improver of arable land. The uſe of it is ſtrong-

ly recommended where it can be had at any tolerable rate. It agrees with all ſorts of ſoil, except the two extremes of duſty, light or blowing ſand, and the ſtrongeſt clay. Where there is any good degree of mixture of both, it never fails to make great improvements; for by its holding nature, when thoroughly dead and fallen, it adds tenacity to light ſoils, preventing the rains from falling too ſoon away, and by its ſalts, opens and relaxes the ſtronger ſoils, that they are not chilled and ſtarved by ſtagnated waters; for which reaſon, all heaths, moors, and grounds over-run with whins, fern, broom, &c. when turned up with the plough, are ſo much improved by it, that many lands, before worth not more than two or three ſhillings per acre, have been made worth twenty ſhillings. Eighty, or ninety buſhels being laid on an acre, will laſt four years, if not five. Let it be obſerved, that all looſe, heathy or mooriſh light ſoils, after ſowing for three or four years, or ſo long as the ſoil continues hol-

low

low or ſpongy, ſhould as ſoon as the ſpring corn begins to appear, be rolled with a long heavy roller, the better to faſten the ground, and to cloſe the corn to it. If this method was univerſally adopted throughout the County of Glouceſter, particularly near the Foreſt of Dean, &c. their crops would be much better than I obſerved them to be, during my ſurvey in that part: where, to my utter aſtoniſhment, they had ſcarcely began their wheat harveſt in the month of September.

XI. In laying down the land after tillage, ſuppoſed to have been done with ſowing clover, care ſhould be taken that the ridges are not laid too high, which is an injury to either paſture or meadow; for in high ridges, the beſt ſoil is thrown up deeper than neceſſary, and the furrows laid bare to the hungry bottom, which can produce only a coarſe graſs, or ruſhes. Proper drains ſhould be made, that the water may not ſtagnate any where, but run off without obſtruction into the water courſes. For

though a due quantity of moiſture is eſſentially neceſſary for vegetation; a too great ſupply, particularly of ſtagnate water, always impoveriſhes the land. It is therefore highly neceſſary to keep good drains, to open the trenches wide, and make them of a proper depth; and the earth taken out ſhould not be laid too near the ſide of the drain, for the poaching of cattle will eaſily fill it up, and prevent the drains carrying off the water.

XII. The earth and mud which comes from new made ditches, is a valuable improver of land, and by experience, ought to be claſſed among the firſt rate manures. Where the hedges are tall and thick, quantities of leaves fall in autumn; which mixing, and rotting with the earth, makes it exceedingly fat, and ſerviceable in vegetation, and in order to render it more eſſentially uſeful, if mixed with an equal quantity of dung, will improve and mollify the earth, eſpecially after laying ſome time in heaps. If ditch cleanſings cannot

be

be procured, it is a very good method to mix any ſort of earth with dung, which will occaſion the latter to ferment, and rot much ſooner, conſequently will be ſooner fit for uſe.

XIII. Every farmer ſhould keep his furrows regular, and in good order; which is one eſſential part of good huſbandry, not permitting the plough to enter too deep, nor to let the land want a proper number of tilths, commonly four for wheat, five for barley. Above all, let care be taken to keep the fallows perfectly clean, and free from weeds, which if not kept entirely under, ſpoil and eat out the ſtrength of the land. The beſt remedy to prevent which is, (as before hinted) to ſtir the land in dry weather, and on no account permit the plough to work thereon in rainy weather: as a certain maxim the farmer ſhould obſerve, it is much better to do nothing, than nothing to the purpoſe. The cuſtom recommended, and much practiſed, of confining and folding ſheep, or other

cattle, in proper hurdles, on the fallows, ſhould be always attended to; for nothing is of more advantage, or more natural to all hard corn, than the dung and urine of ſheep, or oxen. And the ſooner ſuch lands are ploughed after folding, the greater will be the advantage, by preventing the exhalation of the virtue and richneſs of the manure.

XIV. Where rye is cheap and plentiful, it has been found to anſwer exceeding well for the fatting oxen, after being ground, though not too ſmall. The beſt time for this is in winter and ſpring, when the price of beef and the conſumption would go hand in hand, and conſequently pay the farmer better than in ſummer, particularly when hay is ſcarce, and the price equal in proportion to ſeed rye. It is a method that has been practiſed with great ſucceſs, and the oxen formerly ſent to London fatted with this grain, were much eſteemed for their delicious flavour.

It may at this time ſeem unneceſſary to obſerve, that ox-teams are far more profitable than horſes; that a conſtant ſucceſſion of fat and lean cattle is of great conſequence to the farmer, that keeps ox-teams; conſequently he ſhould raiſe his own ſtock, for it is much better for every farmer, whoſe land will admit him to raiſe ſtock, to be a ſeller, rather than a purchaſer.

XV. Thoſe farmers who occupy ſmall farms, will find it eſſentially neceſſary to improve every article that a careful induſtry is capable of, otherwiſe much of his labour, as well as his little fund for carrying on his buſineſs, will be ſoon ſunk, without any real advantage derived to himſelf.

It may not be deemed foreign to the ſubject of this Pamphlet, to point out the method of making the beſt advantage of his early live ſtock of calves and lambs, particularly, at a time when the demand for each, in the higheſt perfection, will yield an exorbitant price both in the London and country markets.

To

To produce good veal, it muſt be fat, white, and well flavoured; the latter is generally wanted, and very frequently one or both the former, which can proceed from nothing but an imperfect or unnatural method of treating the ſubject.

To obtain the perfection neceſſary, is, not to admit the frequent over bleeding, generally practiſed, by which the victim loſes thoſe nutritive qualities, which ſhould nouriſh and meliorate the fleſh, and ſupply the animal with proper juices.

Let the calf be kept perfectly dry, on clean ſtraw, every day laid upon the old, and ſtalled up in little room, but admit a conſtant open ſupply of air, and expoſed to the ſun; let his bed be raiſed at leaſt twelve inches from the ground, and laid on hurdles, that no urine may be retained, not permitting him to ſtand near the wall of the building, nor to come near any ſoil, which he will be ever ready to lick up, if not prevented. A chalk ſtone, the freer the better, ſhould be ſuſpended, which will

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engage his attention, and by his frequent application, will communicate a fine whiteneſs and beauty to the veal: thus far is generally known.

One great impediment in making fine veal, is, that of permitting the calf to take as much milk for the firſt fortnight as he will; a ſufficient quantity to ſupport him in health being much better, after which take from him a ſmall quantity of blood, and encreaſe his diet a little, and regularly during the third week of his age; then with a quantity of powdered chalk, and anniſeed water, make a pill about the ſize of a perſon's finger, and about the conſiſtence of bread paſte, at the time it is uſed, and give him one every night and morning.

The reaſon for this application is, if the calf is laxative, which I am informed by very good graziers, is frequently the caſe, he cannot poſſibly thrive or be fat, conſequently a prevention will effectually ſecure the deſired end. Should this application rather abate his attachment to milk, he will not-

notwithſtanding, grow very fat during the laſt fortnight of this proceſs, which if continued to the age of ſix or ſeven weeks, will exceed any other veal whatever, both in beauty and in flavour: it will be neceſſary to repeat one more bleeding about a week before he is killed.

Fine houſe lamb will produce a good price in general; and the Dorſet and Wiltſhire ſheep have been much eſteemed for producing the beſt. They ought to be well ſecured from cold, to be kept very clean, and for the dam to be fed on oats, turnips, and bran, which ſhould be their chief and conſtant food, during the whole time of their ſupporting the lamb. Let the lambs take their fill at pleaſure; but let them be conſtantly confined in cloſe pens, and they will ſoon derive a fine fatneſs, and colour, as well as flavour, and will yield a very great price in good markets.

XVI. Farmers in general are more or leſs convinced that ſteeping their ſeed corn, particularly wheat, in a ſtrong brine and urine,

urine, or ſea water, and taking away the light grains that ſwim at top, is neceſſary to prevent the ſmut; and in general this method will be found as effectual as thoſe noſtrums ſold under pretence of ſuperior virtues. But the former method having been by many imperfectly uſed, ſometimes by only ſprinkling, or only juſt wetting the ſeed, by putting it into the preparation, and immediately withdrawing it again, the good effect to be expected from properly conducting the proceſs, has thereby failed. It is neceſſary for the ſeed corn to remain at leaſt twelve hours in the preparation, and after it is taken out, to ſprinkle it well with unſlacked lime, the better to ſeparate the grain; nothing leſs will effectually prevent the diſeaſe ſo common to ſome grounds, and ſo fatal to ſucceeding crops. It is alſo neceſſary to change the ſeed, and make choice of ſuch as grew on a ſoil different as poſſible from that to be ſown; for it is well known by experience, that all grain will

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degenerate, by being too long confined to the ſame, or the ſame conditioned land.

The Norfolk method of preparing the land, and planting the ſeed wheat and other crops, deſerves every recommendation and encouragement, not only for the ſaving in ſeed, but for the fine and valuable crops which are every year to be ſeen from this improvement. Whoever conſults the Works of A. Young, Eſq. the Tranſactions of the Bath Society, &c. will find every uſeful information, which the limits of this pamphlet will not admit.

XVII. Where the ſeveral ſorts of manures are ſcarce, or not eaſily procured, there is an art of improving poor land, or rather of making it improve itſelf, without thoſe ſuperinductions, which in every other caſe is eſſentially neceſſary. But as an art, this ſhould be regarded and uſed, particularly where manures are moſt wanting. Of this ſome hints have been already given, but the whole lies in ſowing ſuch ſeeds upon poor and worn out land, that by ploughing in

in the crop at Midſummer, or by eating it with ſheep, it will receive riches ſufficient to anſwer the farmer's moſt ſanguine expectations, if not equal to any other manure.

Clover, vetches, peaſe, lentils, buckwheat, and turnips, are all found to anſwer the purpoſe. And if theſe were more generally introduced on poor ſoils, the advantage would ſoon be ſufficiently conſpicuous to encourage their cultivation, where their utility is at preſent but imperfectly known.

This method of improving the poorer ſort of land, has given riſe to a very weak and fallacious argument, viz. that it muſt diminiſh the annual value of the richeſt and beſt land. But this argument is of ſo little force, that it ſufficiently explodes itſelf, and can be of no prejudice whatever, whether it relates to public or private intereſt; for ſuppoſe the whole kingdom was made rich by induſtry and improvements, the nation in general muſt be conſidered

richer by the quantity of its products; and the conſumption, trade, and exports, would call for all the produce this iſland is capable of; conſequently no diminution of perſonal property can ever ariſe from the moſt vigorous and extenſive improvements that ever can or ever will be made.

That I may make ſome little effort to encourage the improvement alluded to, I ſubjoin a ſhort abſtract of the nature and qualities of artificial graſs-ſeeds; ſhewing the proper quantity to be ſown on an acre of land, the ſoil moſt agreeable to the ſeed, the time of ſowing, and the average produce; which will ſerve as an occaſional remembancer, and be particularly uſeful to thoſe, who are not fully acquainted with the advantages ariſing from their produce.

XVIII. CLOVER.

Is the richeſt and beſt of graſſes. Eleven pounds will ſow an acre.

To

To be ſowed alone at Michaelmas, though it is moſtly ſown with oats or barley* in ſpring.

The ſoil beſt adapted for this ſeed, is dry and warm, rather than moiſt and cold.

The hay ſhould be mowed about the middle of May, when it begins to knot.

Produce of ſeed from one acre, is generally about two buſhels, ſometimes more.

Will laſt three years.

RYE-GRASS.

Three buſhels is ſufficient to ſow on an acre of land. Some farmers uſe three buſhels and a half, but if mixed with clover, which is eſteemed better than alone, eight pounds of clover and one buſhel of rye-graſs is a proper quantity.

Rye-graſs will grow on any cold, ſour clay, or ſpongy ſoil.

* Experience proves that ſowing artificial graſs-ſeeds alone at Michaelmas anſwers much beſt. The dropping wet from oats, or barley, will in general leſſen the crop when ſown with larger grain.

The average produce from an acre, is about thirty buſhels. Of hay two, ſometimes three loads.

Will laſt in the ground about ſeven years.

SAINTFOIN.

Four buſhels is ſufficient to ſow an acre.

Delights chiefly in a ſhallow ground, or ſoil, upon a lime-ſtone, rock, or chalk.

Will laſt twenty years; and if a quantity of ſoot is ſpread over the land at the expiration of that time, it will revive the crop for twenty years to come.

This graſs is one of the beſt improvers of barren land.

It ſhould be ſown alone, about Michaelmas.

The proper time to mow for hay* is in

* Saintfoin ſhould be mowed during the firſt and ſecond year. The treading of large cattle, and their being excited by the ſweetneſs of it, to feed too near the ground, while the roots are young and tender, is a very great injury, particularly in wet weather.

the

the month of May following, when it begins to bloſſom.

It is the beſt of all other hay for hard working horſes: and the produce may in general be eſtimated from three to four loads per acre.

The general produce of ſeed per acre, riſes from twenty to twenty-five buſhels; and is ripe to mow for ſeed about Midſummer.

L U C E R N E.

Fourteen pounds will ſow an acre; a leſs quantity in drills, at proper diſtance from each other.

Succeeds beſt on a warm ſoil.

Time of ſowing ſpring.

To be mowed twice a year, firſt, early in May, and again at Midſummer.

It is exceeding good mowed in ſmall quantities, and given green to horſes.

It makes moſt excellent hay. One acre will ſupport three horſes one year. Will laſt at leaſt twenty years.

VETCHES, LENTILS, TARES, AND BUCK-WHEAT,

Are all profitable ſeeds, and fine improvers of land; particularly if ploughed in when in full bloom, or the ſtubble only, after the crop is cut and carried, adds fertility to the land, in general equal to a moderate manuring.

Will thrive on ordinary land, light ſand, or mellow.

There are two ſorts of vetches. One ſort to be ſown in November, the other in ſpring.

Lentils and tares produce much ſtraw, and make excellent fodder for young cattle. The ſeed is good for horſes, and if cut green they are excellent feed.

One buſhel of either will ſow an acre.

Produce, about ſix buſhels on an average.

BUCK-WHEAT.

One buſhel will ſow an acre, and the increaſe is generally very great, yielding on

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an average, about fifty buſhels from an acre. Is an excellent feed for hogs, poultry, &c.

Will grow on dry barren land.

Time of ſowing, latter end of February, or beginning of May.

If ploughed in, while it is in full bloom, about Midſummer, will prove as good if not better manuring, than twenty loads of dung per acre.

T U R N I P S,

Have of late years been in great eſteem, and juſtly ranked among the beſt improvers of land, as well as the moſt advantageous in other reſpects to the farmer: on both theſe accounts the cultivation of this valuable root cannot be too ſtrongly enforced.

There are ſeveral ſorts of turnips: as the round, the yellow, the long, &c. The latter of which, not ſo conſtantly ſown, requires a deeper ſoil.

They may be ſown from Midſummer to Lammas, or later; and the land where they

they are ſown ſhould be twice fallowed, and made as fine as may be with the harrow. When the ſeed is ſown, it ſhould be harrowed in with buſhes. After they appear with four leaves, it is common and neceſſary to hough them, which muſt not be neglected; for without thinning and ſorting them, it is impoſſible to procure a fine crop.

Turnips on poor land are ſubject to the fly, which is very deſtructive to the plants. A ſprinkling of rotten dung, or rather ſoot, has been practiſed, but not always attended with ſucceſs. Various experiments have been tried to prevent the ravages of the fly, and ſome uſeful hints may be found in the Bath papers, and in the works of A. Young, Eſq. or other modern writers on agriculture: however, I recommend a good ſprinkling of ſoot before the crop is harrowed.

The beſt time for ſowing is juſt before or immediately after a ſhower; and if the ſowing miſcarry, repeat a ſecond: two pounds is ſufficien t for an acre.

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The practice of feeding the cattle on turnips in the houſe ſhould be univerſally declined, as it is injurious to the land, inſtead of improving it. The moſt proper method, at preſent practiſed in Norfolk, Suffolk, &c. is to reſerve them for winter feed, and then the ſheep or horned cattle, or both together ſhould be confined to hurdles, comprehending about an acre at a time till the whole are well eaten over. The dung and urine of the ſtock, together with the remains of the turnips, will meliorate and enrich the land, and make it a proper recipient for barley in the ſpring, and for a crop of beans and peaſe the following year, and for wheat the third; after a ſummer fallow without any other addition. Theſe crops are of great advantage for raiſing and perfecting winter lamb, by ſupplying the ewes with milk.

XIX. The ſame attention that is paid to the preparation of land for turnips is eſſentially neceſſary for theſe artificial graſs ſeeds before mentioned. The ſoil is to be freed

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as much as poſſible from ſtones, briars, &c. and to be well rolled after ſowing. The too general neglect of theſe particulars has been attended with great diſadvantage, and a failure in a much expected crop has diſcouraged many farmers from exertions, that under a proper management would have been replete with the beſt advantages. When it is conſidered that the ſeed is ſmall, and if the mould is not bound cloſe to them, they naturally ſpend themſelves, and exhale away their vegetative ſtrength, without being able to unite with the attractive qualities of the earth.

Where the want of practice in ſowing theſe ſeeds has not given the huſbandman the proper method of caſting them from a full hand, it is better to mix a proper quantity of ſand or earth with the ſeed, in order to fill the hand, and ſow it with regularity; a ſtill day being moſt proper for this buſineſs.

Some few years ago, and in ſome parts at this time, artificial graſſes were thought

to

to impoveriſh the land, conſequently their propagation could not but be diſcouraged. But this, like other miſtaken notions, being once permitted to ſpeak its own language, evidently appears to originate from other cauſes, as an over mowing the crop, over feeding, &c. where covetous perſons, like the boy in the fable, expect to receive all the advantage at once, which the Author of Nature only meant to diſtribute in ſtreams of plenty on thoſe who will be content to wait the regular operations of right order. It being an experimental maxim, that too often and too long mowing is a prejudice equally as great to paſture and meadow land, as too long and too often ploughing is to arable.

It is therefore eſſentially neceſſary for the intereſt of every farmer to propagate theſe graſs ſeeds in a regular manner; ſometimes ſummer feeding, as well as mowing them, and occaſionally to plough in a full crop in its full luſtre, and he will invariably find the beſt advantage to be the reſult of this procedure; his land will be greatly enriched, his

his ſucceeding crops full and weighty, and every ſucceſs that can poſſibly be expected, will be derived in general from the rules here recommended.

An ABSTRACT *of ſuch* MANURES *as are of general uſe for the* IMPROVEMENT *of* LAND.

XX. Horſe and cow-dung, mixed with ditch earth, where the leaves of trees, hedges, &c. rot, or being mixed with mud of ponds, or any ſort of earth, where the former cannot be obtained, will be a rich manure for moſt arable or paſture lands. This method having for years been much practiſed in the county of Eſſex, has greatly improved their land. They lay it in large heaps, on a waſte near the intended land to be manured, and carry on about twenty loads per acre on a clay. The red hazle brick earth, or light ſands, require from ten to fifteen loads per acre,

as

as this ſoil requires a renewal of manuring oftener than the former.

XXI. Sheep's dung for cold tillage clay lands, is the beſt of all manures: as it cannot eaſily be collected, it is always conveyed to the lands by feeding and folding thereon; by this means the dung and urine are properly diſperſed. Great improvements have been made where they fold the ſheep under cover, and mix their dung with ditch earth, mud, &c. which ſpreads the former much farther. In ſome parts of England, they houſe their ſheep at night, littering them with clean ſtraw, which when rotten is found to be excellent manure, and fully repays the trouble.

XXII. Hog's dung, next to ſheep's, is rich and fattening both for paſture and arable land, particularly the latter. One load of this is reckoned equal to two of any other, and may be mixed with earths as the former. The cleanſing of vaults, is very valuable for hot, dry, burning land, and makes great improvement thereon; it

ſhould be mixed with ditch earth, or any of the former dungs, and in ſome counties is held in the higheſt eſteem for paſture land.

XXIII. Pigeon's dung, being of a nature hot, and full of ſalts, agrees beſt with cold lands; wet and ſpongy, either arable, paſture or meadow, are greatly improved by it. When applied to arable, it ſhould be ſown by hand after the corn is ſown, and in the ſame manner.

Thirty buſhels on an acre, anſwers for one year only. The produce of the crop is always extenſive, even on barren land, if the ſummer is not very parching.

XXIV. Hen's dung, and the dung of poultry in general, are all very good, and full of nitre, though not ſo rich for barren ſoils as that of pigeon's, and is more difficult to ſtrew on the land. It is therefore neceſſary to mix it with other dung, or with aſhes, ſand, or earth.

XXV. Sea-coal aſhes, for cold meadow and paſture land, is an admirable improver.

It

It produces much wild trefoil and clover, which is eſteemed the ſweeteſt, as well as richeſt feed for cattle. And ſuch is the produce, that after this manuring is properly ſunk into the ſoil, the land will ſupport at leaſt double the ſtock, and from its laſting quality deſerves every recommendation.

From twenty, to twenty-five loads per acre is a proper quantity. Where that cannot be had, leſs may anſwer.

This manure is proper for meadow and paſture, not ſo for arable.

XXVI. Soap aſhes, from the ſoap-boilers, are an excellent manure, both for arable and paſture. Eight or nine loads will ſufficiently ſupply an acre, and will aſſiſt the deſtruction of furze, broom, fern, &c. if applied after grubbing at Midſummer. This manure is found to laſt four or five crops.

XXVII. Pot aſhes, are very good manuring for moſt ſorts of paſture land; but in general not ſo replete with ſalts as ſoaper's

aſhes. A greater quantity may be applied to an acre.

XXVIII. Soot, is known to be a moſt valuable manure, both for paſture and arable, eſpecially that produced from ſea-coal, becauſe it is much ſtronger, and fuller of nitre than wood ſoot, &c. and anſwers better on cold clay lands.

Forty buſhels on an acre is a ſufficient quantity, which will not only manure, but deſtroy weeds, thorns, &c. If once in four or five years this ſoot is ſcattered over fields of ſaintfoin, it will greatly increaſe the crop, which will alſo laſt ſeveral years longer.

XXIX. Malt-duſt is another valuable improver of land. It gives life, ſtrength, and increaſe, to a crop of barley, if ſcattered over it ſoon after a ſhower. It is nearly as ſtrong as the dung of pigeons, and ſhould be uſed in a ſimilar manner.

Forty buſhels on an acre, which will ſerve for one crop only.

N. B. There

N. B. There is a compound manure, of malt-duſt, ſea-ſand, oil, and ſalt, deſcribed in the ſecond volume of the Bath papers, which I have tried, and found it anſwer very well. But in this abſtract, it remains for me to deſcribe ſimple manures only.

XXX. Rags of all ſorts, both linen and woollen, leather, and feathers, make very good manure. On chalky, binding, tillage land, it is neceſſary to chop the rags and leather ſmall, and ſtrew them after ſowing the corn, about twenty-four buſhels to an acre. Shreds of leather, old ſhoes, hats, or ſtockings, as they are longer before they entirely decay, their virtue remains longer with the land.

XXXI. Lime, of all other manures, has been in great repute, and great are the improvements produced by it, both on paſture and arable land. It agrees with every ſoil except the two extremes, as before obſerved, of light ſand and ſtrong clay. It improves light ſoils, by adding tenacity. All heavy, heathy grounds, moors

and others over-run with furze, broom, fern, &c. when ploughed, are greatly helped by it; ſo far that land not exceeding three ſhillings value, may be made worth twenty ſhillings per acre.

Eighty to ninety buſhels per acre, on arable land, will endure five or ſix years.

XXXII. Chalk. If to one load of this, two loads of dung be added, or of rich earth; if in this proportion it is laid in heaps to ferment and incorporate, it will produce an excellent manure for all cold, ſour or gravelly land, and is well known where in uſe to produce extenſive crops of corn for twenty years together.

Twenty loads ſhould be laid on an acre; and when the land is to be laid down for graſs, twenty loads of chalk only per acre, will produce beyond deſcription where the reſult is not well known.

XXXIII. Marl is of ſeveral ſorts; the beſt is pure and unmixed, and will diſſolve in water. It is an excellent manure to fix light ſands; and though it has been diſputed whether

whether it has fertilizing qualities of itſelf, yet experience proves it to be a valuable reſtorative, and conſequently of a fertilizing nature.

In Staffordſhire it is greatly in uſe: they commonly lay three hundred loads on an acre, which will laſt without addition about twenty years, if kept in paſture or arable; a ſprinkling of dung for every crop of wheat will keep the land in a ſtate of perfect health, and help to open the binding quality of the marl.

Late experience has diſcovered that the black mooriſh ſoil, taken off the fens, which would produce nothing but an unprofitable ling, if it is laid together with lime, long dung, or ſtubble litter, in equal quantities for a year, will make great improvements on meadows, if laid on in the ſpring. The lime and dung both induce fermentation, and rot the ſoil; and at the ſame time give tenacity, ſo that it becomes mellow and rich, and will anſwer the expectation of

thoſe

thoſe, who are not afraid to engage in uſeful improvements.

The leaves of trees falling into ditches, mud, or into ponds, impregnate the receptacle with ſtrong ſalts, conſequently the older ſuch mud or pond ſcowerings are, the more beneficial to the land. If the meadow or paſture is covered pretty thick, as they ought, will laſt many years, and produce much trefoil and other ſweet graſſes. The proper time for laying on theſe ſcowerings, may be either in autumn, winter or ſpring; but the two laſt ſeaſons are to be preferred.

XXXIV. Sea-weed, growing chiefly on ſuch rocks as are covered at high water only, is another excellent manure, for one crop on arable. The drying and burning of this weed produces kilp (uſed in making glaſs). Kilp being ſteeped in water, is uſed to dilute the alumn liquor, after which it is laid on land, and though by this proceſs much of the nitrous particles are extracted, yet it is an exceeding good manure, both for paſture and arable.

The

The average quantity on arable or paſture, is about ſix loads per acre. The aſhes are ſoon diſſolved, and in general laſt about five crops on arable, but much longer, and they are of more ſervice on paſture or meadow.

XXXV. Sea-ſand, where it can be had, to lay on ſtiff clay, is a valuable improver, and moſt excellent manure, particularly if taken wet, immediately after the tide has left it.

The reaſon of its giving fertility to land of a clayey nature, is firſt, it ſeparates the parts of clay, which would retain the ſtagnated water, and ſtarve and chill the infant plants; ſecondly, being mixed with ſalt, it gives riches full as great as might be expected from dung filled with ſalt and nitre. The ſame holds good with regard to ſea-ſhells, bones, and refuſe of fiſh, &c.

ABSTRACT *of the* NATURE *and* QUALITIES *of ſeveral ſorts of* EARTH, *requiring the preceding* MANURES.

XXXVI. Sandy ſoil, which in its natural ſtate is of little advantage to the farmer; being looſe, and porous, conſequently incapable of retaining the nouriſhing rains and dews that fall upon it. It is therefore neceſſary to apply ſuch manures as give it tenacity, and render it capable of retaining proper nouriſhment; conſequently the dung of cows, and hogs, which are cold and binding, are beſt adapted to this ſort of land. There is much difference in the nature of ſands. Some are cold, others hot, ſome ſands are rich, others poor: but they all require a manure that will unite the particles together, and in general that of the above-mentioned dungs will beſt ſucceed.

The ſame may be ſaid of gravelly ſoils, when not replete with clay, chalk, or loam.

All

All binding dungs are proper, with the additions mentioned in § 39.

With regard to other light ſoils, not properly either ſand or gravel, the ſame manure may be ſucceſsfully applied, as on light chiſelly ſoils, lying on the ſurface of ſcaly rock, of free or lime-ſtone, (which is frequent in many counties) and from frequent ploughing, degenerates more into a looſe ſand. To this ſoil may be introduced, not only the binding dungs referred to, but good chalk, clay marl, cleanſing of fiſh-ponds, ditches, &c. Theſe ſoils are always ſhallow, and conſequently the plough can penetrate but little. The beſt method to improve in this ſituation, is to lay down with ſaintfoin, as deſcribed under that article.

XXXVII. Clay being the next extreme, when in its unimproved ſtate, or unmixed with other ſoils, requires a manuring different from the former, § 35, when brought to the ſtate of arable.

Horſe

Horſe-dung, ſea-coal aſhes, ſea-ſand, drift-ſand, pigeon and hen dung, refuſe of wood-yards, tanner's bark, &c. which ought to be diſperſed in equal and large quantities, to open the pores, and ſeparate the binding particles, as no grain can flouriſh in this ſort of land, without its parts are well looſened.

XXXVIII. Chalk, whoſe properties are next to clay, requires nearly a ſimilar treatment. It is naturally warmer than clay, but retains the water in the ſame manner. All dung applicable to the former, are to be applied to this ſoil; to which may be added, the articles in § 35, which are very good for this ſoil: and when well manured, produces moſt excellent wheat. A convincing proof of this is every year to be ſeen on the South downs, and their neighbouring parts, in Suſſex.

XXXIX. Loam, is a ſoil, compoſed of a due mixture of clay and ſand, and is eſteemed the moſt valuable of any other, having all the good properties of theſe extremes

tremes united, is generally of ſufficient depth, and brings all vegetables to perfection, conſequently is moſt advantageous for the production of trees, plants, and grain. Accordingly, experience proves that ſo far as the clay on the one hand, or ſand on the other prevails, ſo far is the ſoil proportionably worſe; and conſequently leſs uſeful for vegetation in their own nature. In order therefore to bring this imperfect ſtate of natural ſoil to the perfection it is capable of, a proper application of the preceding dungs is neceſſary, agreeable to directions already given.

Thoſe fine ſoils and mixed earths, which we call loam, are frequently to be met with, and in general are the moſt profitable ſoils for the farmer. When worn out by ploughing, &c. they may be recovered, and enriched by a judicious mixture and application of all the preceding manures, and dungs, both of a binding or looſening nature, as mentioned under their ſeveral heads.

METHOD *of deſtroying ſuch ſpontaneous* GROWTHS, *as are injurious to* LAND *in general.*

XL. Fern being the moſt difficult to eradicate, as it ſtrikes a much deeper root into the earth, may be overcome by repeated mowings in ſpring, and about Midſummer, and afterwards, apply dung or lime at the roots, and they will die away, and very ſeldom recover.

XLI. Ruſhes are alſo deſtroyed by mowing them repeatedly near the ground, at ſpring and Midſummer, with the addition of a good ſprinkling of lime, or quantity of pigeon, hen, or horſe-dung, at the roots, and they will riſe no more.

XLII. Broom is effectually deſtroyed by cutting, and afterwards mowing at Midſummer, as near the ground as poſſible. If any ſtems ſhould ſurvive the firſt operation, a repetition will prove an infallible cure.

XLII. Whins,

XLIII. Whins, or furze, are eaſily overcome. As ſoon as the land is laid for graſs after tillage, they are to be drawn from the earth by hand after a froſt, when the ground is open and looſe. Conſtant mowing while young, will alſo have the proper effect.

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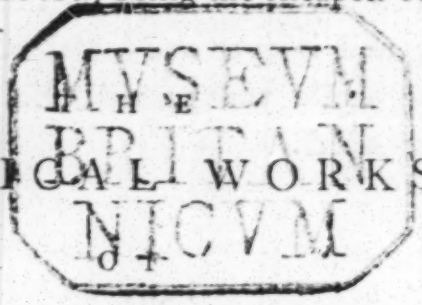

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